

# GESTINGTHORPE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2015

Held in the Village Hall on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

- Present:** Parish Cllrs James Nott (Chair) Ashley Cooper, Steve Bolter, Terry Flower, Richard Payne  
District Cllr, Wendy Scattergood  
Leslie Crumpton-Taylor – School Governor  
1 member of the public  
Parish Clerk
- Apologies:** John Sinclair – Neighbourhood Watch representative  
County Cllr David Finch – attending another meeting

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Village Meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. **Chairman's Report**

James reported that the playing field is being well used and is in good order. A football team have asked to start up and he hoped that both the football team and cricket club would work together. Thanks were given to John Hasler for repair works to the play equipment. Delvyn's Lane is an on-going issue and funding is being put in place for work to be carried out but there has been no action yet; the Parish Council are promoting winter closure for this Byway. County Broadband and Gestingthorpe PCC are due to sign a contract for equipment to be placed on the church roof which will give 32mb speed and free Wi-Fi for the village hall. The new village hall committee are running very well and have lots of energy; James thanked them for their work. The Parish Council is running to the book and the budget is good; he thanked Frances for her work and hoped that the village is happy with the running of the Parish Council. There were not enough nominations for Parish Councillors for the May election and therefore it is uncontested. Two more councillors will need to be co-opted.

3. **Accounts for year 2014-15**

The Parish Clerk gave a brief explanation of the annual figures as compared to the previous year's figures. There were no questions raised.

4. **Report from Governor of Bulmer St. Andrew's School**

Leslie Crumpton-Taylor reported on the new staff structure, class sizes and funding. The educational pot is being frozen and money will be tight. Free school meals are now offered at the school. There have been some new pupils join the school and he hoped that a proposed new development in Foxearth would help to increase numbers further in the future. Leslie was thanked for his report.

5. **Reports from village organisations & Community Agent**

There was no report from the Community Agent, Jayne Laken.

***Educational Foundation***

Ashley Cooper reported that Peter Collett had successfully taken over as secretary from Jane Winmill and had been a great help. The accounts and annual report were passed round. The Parish field is inspected annually by the Trustees and is being farmed well. The total income for the year was £1,313 and £1,290 had been given in grants for various educational purposes. The accounts had been audited by Jimmy Craig. Ashley was thanked for his report.

***Village Hall***

Terry Flower reported that the committee is continuing as before and want suggestions for ideas for fundraising events. The auction of promises had raised over £2,000 and there is a mouse derby to come. The aim is to renew the toilet block. Terry was thanked for his report.

**Neighbourhood Watch**

John Sinclair's report was read out. He gave an update on the Essex Community Messaging System, a new Heritage Watch organisation; the latest Neighbourhood Watch bulletin had been distributed around the village. James mentioned that Crouch House bungalow had been recently broken into.

**Footpaths**

Steve Bolter thanked farmers for the care given to the footpaths and hedges.

**6. District & County Councillors Reports**

District Cllr Wendy Scattergood informed the meeting of someone impersonating a police officer in the Great Henny area, Braintree DC had cut the council tax, given support for bus start ups, given funds to County Broadband for their expansion, 173 affordable homes have been delivered, a discounted rate relief for small businesses, improved waste service giving a saving of £4,000 annually and a 7.6% return from property investment.

**7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business raised.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm

Signed ..... Chairman                      Date .....